

# Mir crew receives new supplies with Progress docking

By **Natasha Calder**

The Mir 22 crew spent its week preparing to receive a host of new supplies which arrived at the space station early this morning on board a Progress resupply capsule which launched from Russia early Wednesday.

Cosmonaut Researcher John Blaha and his crewmates—Commander Valery Korzun and Flight Engineer Alexander “Sasha” Kaleri—received all sorts of new supplies needed for their ongoing mission, including food, clothing, water and fuel for the stations engines, along with other personal items sent up by their families for the upcoming holidays.

To prepare for and study the docking of the new Progress, the Space Acceleration

Measurement System was activated on the station prior to the undocking of the resident Progress to measure the microgravity disturbances caused by the undocking and docking of vehicles with the station. The experiment measured the disturbances in order to determine to what extent the movements may affect data being obtained from the numerous science experiments being conducted on board Mir.

Blaha said this resupply process, along with other systems and procedures currently being conducted on Mir, is being performed much as it will be on the space station.



“All of these things that we’re doing are just folding in to really make us get a head start when we get our new space station in orbit,” Blaha said. “I’m very proud to be a small part of that development process.”

Other work performed on the station this week included additional experiments routinely scheduled with a planned undocking of a Russian or American spacecraft.

This work included the collection of urine and saliva samples from the crew needed for a metabolic study relating protein metabolism and kidney stone risk. This sample collection

is done within 14 days of an undocking so that the excess urine can be properly disposed. The crew also conducted an analysis of some of the data collected during the monthly microbial sampling of the air, surfaces, water supply and crew to study the station’s environment and its inhabitants.

Blaha also has been taking advantage of the view from the space station, continuing with Earth observations and photographing the planet. “I have filmed just about the whole planet now,” Blaha said. “I got some beautiful photography of Australia...and fantastic photography of the United States, many cities and a lot of photography of different ocean areas for oceanographers.”

## JSC volunteers sought for Engineer’s week

The Education Outreach Program is recruiting employees to volunteer for National Engineers Week, that will be held February 16-22.

Volunteers are asked to commit to giving one to two classroom presentations to schools within school districts of their choice anytime during the month of February. With supervisory approval, JSC civil service employees may charge their time spent away from work to a special education labor code. Contractor employees are asked to obtain approval from their company education representatives to participate in this JSC-sponsored community educational activity.

To help prepare volunteers for classroom presentations, two orientation meetings will be held at noon, Jan. 23-24 in Teague Auditorium. A panel of aerospace education specialists will discuss presentation tips, demonstrate hands-on activities for use in the classroom and provide information on access to resources such as exhibits, videos and promotional materials.

To volunteer, please contact Mae Mangieri at x32929 no later than Nov. 29.

## MCC open for viewing during STS-80

The Mission Control Center viewing room will be open for JSC and contractor badged employees and their families during portions of the STS-80 mission.

Employees will be allowed to visit the MCC from 5-7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Dec. 3; 11:30-1:30 p.m. today, Tuesday and Nov. 29; 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 2 and Dec. 4; and for landing Dec. 5.

For the latest information on the schedule, call the Employee Information Service at x36765.

During STS-80, sighting opportunities will be possible in the Houston area at 6:11 a.m. Thursday, 5:53 a.m. Dec. 1 and 6:19 a.m. Dec. 2. For more information on how to spot the orbiter, visit the shuttle home page at URL: <http://shuttle.nasa.gov>

## Weather Channel features JSC shuttle weather support program

The Weather Channel is showing a feature on Space Shuttle Program weather support this weekend on its “WeatherScope” segment.

The feature, “Forecasting for Space” featuring the Spaceflight Meteorology Group at JSC, originally was a five-part series giving a brief historical background on shuttle weather support with highlights from STS-78 and a description of the JSC group and the U.S. Air Force’s 45th Weather Squadron in Florida.

The 20 minute feature will be aired in its entirety at 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. However, these schedules may be altered if the Weather Channel is covering a breaking weather story.

“The Weather Channel is viewed



From left Astronaut Don Thomas and Lynn Heninger, deputy associate administrator of Legislative Affairs, show Todd Schultz, chief of staff from the Office of U.S. Representative James Sensenbrenner, the flight deck of the Crew Compartment Trainer in Bldg. 9 during NASA JSC Inspection Day.

## Employees’ children may enter ’97 safety calendar poster contest

By **Rindy Carmichael**

Children of all JSC personnel are invited to enter the 1997 Safety and Total Health Calendar Poster Contest.

Children will enter their artwork based on a theme according to their age group for possible placement into a 1997 calendar distributed center-wide. The overall theme for the calendar is “Safety and Health Are Up to Me.”

The calendars will be 11 x 17, printed in full color, and bordered by a total of 36 winning posters. The winners will have the honor of being published and receive a T-shirt with their poster reprinted on it.

Deadline for entries is Dec. 2 and only poster boards provided by JSC may be used for drawings. Poster boards are available in Bldgs. 3 and 11 cafeterias, Bldgs. 1, 8, and 419 lobbies or can be requested by calling 244-5078. Rules and regulations are found on the back of the poster boards and must be adhered to for eligibility in the contest.

All civil service employees will receive one calendar free of charge. Contractors are asked to contact their company’s management for information regarding obtaining a copy. Calendars may be purchased after the first of the year at the Bldg. 11 Exchange Store.

## STS-80 crew to conduct high blood pressure experiments

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WSF Monday.

“On this particular flight we expect to grow seven wafers which will be distributed among our commercial suppliers so that they can use them to determine the actual quality and how they can be used in circuits,” said Ed Gabris, director of the Space Processing Division at NASA Headquarters, this week.

Once the WSF is secure in

Columbia’s cargo bay, the crew will turn its attention to one of two space walks scheduled for this mission.

The first space walk on Flight Day 10 will focus on the use of a crane to maneuver large space station Orbital Replacement Units, or ORUs. The second space walk, set for Flight Day 12, will focus on the Portable Work Platform and how well crew members can move around to assemble the station.

In addition, rats with high blood pressure will be flying on STS-80 and may help scientists understand how calcium helps maintain human health. Two groups of rats will be studied, one on a low-calcium diet, the other on a diet high in calcium. After the flight, scientists will conduct tests to find out how the different calcium intakes affected cardiovascular functioning and blood pressure.

“A large body of evidence indi-

cates that problems in the way the body processes calcium also can lead to hypertension, or high blood pressure,” said Daniel Hatton, a hypertension specialist from the Oregon Health Sciences University.

“This research offers hope to the tens of millions of people suffering from calcium-related conditions such as osteoporosis and hypertension,” said David McCarron also a hypertension specialist from Oregon.

## Space News Roundup

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## Node delivery in six months

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Node 1 is the first U.S. space station component scheduled to be launched in December 1997. The node serves as connecting passageway to other modules on the International Space Station. With the pressure test now completed, Node 1 will be moved out of the Boeing test facility and returned to the space station manufacturing building for assembly and check-out activities at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center.

Last August, Node 1 and the laboratory module successfully completed a series of proof pressure tests. Like this last Node 1 test, data analysis from the August tests indicated both modules performance was excellent.

Just six months from now, in

May 1997, Node 1 will be shipped out of Huntsville to the Kennedy Space Center in preparation for its early December 1997 shuttle launch to join the Russian-built functional energy block, or FGB. The FGB is scheduled for launch in late November 1997, just one week before it is joined by Node 1 over 220 miles above the Earth. The FGB is a self powered vehicle that provides attitude control and electrical power through the early assembly stages of the space station.

Once assembled, the space station will have a mass of nearly 1 million pounds and provide more than 46,000 cubic feet of pressurized living and working space for astronauts. Construction is scheduled to be completed in June 2002.